

## THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVES:

The major objectives of the committee are:

1. To assist with raising awareness in the Australian community about apartheid in South Africa.
2. To provide support to the people's struggle of South Africa, through the Australian offices of the ANC.
3. To promote co-operation and understanding between the Australian people and their government and the people of South Africa and the ANC through educational and cultural exchange.
4. To assist with the co-ordination and implementation of Australian-wide tours by leading ANC personnel.
5. To seek government assistance for educational and administrative projects for the Australian ANC office.
6. To seek government assistance to provide educational scholarships, humanitarian and development assistance to the people of South Africa through the ANC.
7. To assist with fundraising activities for education programs and administrative support for the ANC office and for overseas project assistance for the ANC through non-government organisations.
8. To function as a management committee for such projects.
9. To encourage the establishment of appropriate support groups among churches, unions, legal, media, women and other community groups.

## THE COMMITTEE'S STRUCTURES

The committee which meets regularly has Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer. Mr Cliff Dolan was the first Chairperson.

The committee has representatives from all major sectors of the Australian society. These representatives organize support groups within these various sectors such as a union, church, women, lawyers and NGO groups etc. These groups then mobilize support within their various sectors. This work involves education and awareness raising, organising study and speaking tours by ANC representatives and mobilizing for material and financial support.

## The Freedom Charter

*Adopted at Kliptown, Transvaal, 26 June 1955.*

**We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:**

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;

**And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together — equals, countrymen and brothers — adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.**

**THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!**

**ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!**

**THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!**

**THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!**

**ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!**

**ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!**

**THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!**

**THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND OF CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!**

**THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!**

**THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!**

*Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here: "THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY."*



## AUSTRALIAN AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Australian ANC Support Committee was established in October, 1985. Its main objective is to assist the work of the ANC in Australia.



Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, with Cliff Dolan.

The ANC is the oldest liberation movement in Africa. Founded on the 8th January, 1912 by young intellectuals representing a broad sector of Africans and by the traditional kings of all the ethnic groups, it provided a solid base for a united struggle to end white minority domination in South Africa and replace it with the Freedom Charter.

Until 1960, when it was banned following the Sharpeville Massacre, the ANC pursued all forms of non-violent struggle. The then President-General of the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Since then it has operated in South Africa as an underground organisation and has combined both non-violent and armed struggle to end the system of apartheid. Many of its leaders, Nelson Mandela being the best known, are now serving long terms in jail and the rest are underground or, like Oliver Tambo, in exile.

Various opinion polls conducted in South Africa have shown that it remains the most widely supported organisation and its leadership highly respected by the organised majority of all races.



## AUSTRALIAN AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS SUPPORT COMMITTEE

BOX 49, TRADES HALL (ROOM 77),  
4 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA



8

Internationally the ANC has championed the cause of the oppressed in South Africa. All major western governments have called for the lifting of the ban on the ANC and the release of its leaders from prison as a condition for peaceful negotiation of freedom in South Africa.

In 1983, Mr Hayden the Foreign Minister announced in parliament that the ANC would be permitted to open an information office in Australia. This was done in February 1984, following the arrival of the Chief Representative of the ANC to Australia in December 1983.

In the Australian ANC Support Committee are represented all the major sectors of the Australian society, that is, trade unions, churches, women's organisations, as well as politicians, the media, lawyers and overseas development agencies.

## THE COMMITTEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 1985 the committee has been successful, particularly in the areas of raising public awareness about the ANC's role in the struggle for a free democratic South Africa.



The PM, Mr Hawke with Mr Eddie Funde, the Chief Representative of the ANC in Australia.

## Contact with the Government

The committee has facilitated a meeting between the ANC representative and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke and contact with the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Bill Hayden.

## Visit of President Oliver Tambo

The committee worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs during President Tambo's official Australian government sponsored visit.

A successful fundraising dinner to celebrate the ANC's 75th Anniversary was held with former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, President Tambo and Marcus Einfeld, Head of the Human Rights Commission, as guest of honour.

Oliver Tambo had been invited to Australia by the Australian government. In the past few years he has been received by the government leaders of the U.S.A., Britain, France, West Germany New Zealand and the Nordic and many Socialist countries.

## Education Through Culture



AMANDLA performing during their Australian tour

The committee sponsored a successful three months tour of Australia by AMANDLA, the Cultural Ensemble of the ANC.

The cultural tour involved seasons at the Victorian Arts Center, Adelaide Arts Festival, a tour in Sydney, Canberra, Darwin and Alice Springs, as well as the regional centers of Wollongong and Newcastle.

The tour was extremely successful with the group playing to packed houses and standing ovations. AMANDLA did much to increase awareness in Australia of the ANC and their long struggle for freedom.

## ANC Visitors

The committee is involved in raising awareness in Australia about the brutality and oppression of the South African regime, and what the South African people are doing to end apartheid. As part of its educational work, it invites people to Australia to assist with this educational program. It has also helped co-ordinate visitors from SACTU, legal and religious departments of the ANC.



Rev. Gqiba during his Australian visit

## Humanitarian Assistance To ANC

Many ANC members are forced to flee their country and seek refuge in the neighbouring frontline States where sympathetic governments give them sanctuary. In exile, they share all the problems common to refugees, including poverty and insecurity. Many governments give assistance to these exiles to enable them to continue their struggle for justice.

The Australian ANC Support Committee has also lobbied the Federal government to increase assistance to the ANC in the form of humanitarian and material assistance for South Africans in exile.

Organisations represented on the committee work within their sectors, such as the women's organisations and Australian NGOs to increase this form of assistance to the ANC.